



# California State Parks

## *Quick Facts*



Last updated 1/23/2007

### **Park People**

- California State Parks is authorized 2,467 permanent positions to administer, protect, operate and maintain the state park system. Staff perform the following functions:

Lifeguards	Resource protection/interpretation
Rangers	Planning, design & development
Maintenance	Administration & support
- In addition to the permanent positions, approximately 2,700 seasonal employees are hired annually. These employees supplement the permanent work force in functions such as maintenance, lifeguarding, interpretation and visitor services.

### **Lifeguards and Rangers**

- In 2005, State Park Rangers and Lifeguards:
  - rescued 5,827 persons
  - provided medical aid to 18,106 injured persons
  - issued 15,713 citations
  - arrested 1,398 persons
- State Park Ranger and Lifeguard duties also include:
  - patrolling (with vehicles and boats, 63 motorcycles, 1 airplane, 18 fire trucks and 10 patrol dogs)
  - conducting interpretive programs
  - resource protection

### **Maintenance Staff**

- State Park Maintenance workers are responsible for keeping all state park facilities safe and open for public use. More specifically, the skills they utilize are:

Road and trail maintenance	Water treatment
Plumbing	Housekeeping
Electrical	Litter and trash pickup
Carpentry	Landscape work
- The maintenance staff utilizes:

716 maintenance vehicles	37 boats
252 tractors	22 forklifts



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### **Volunteers and Cooperating Associations**

- 16,609 volunteers contributed 950,430 hours to the department in 2005. Volunteers staff visitor centers, maintain trails, serve as camp hosts, give interpretive programs, present special events and do much, much more to share their love of the parks with the visiting public.
- 80 cooperating associations, 501 (c) 3 non profit organizations that raise funds and advocate for state park units, have over 24,000 members and actively support park units throughout the state. Cooperating associations provide support for visitor centers and undertake fund raising to further the interpretive and educational programs in the parks they serve. Hundreds of special events and thousands of individual interpretive programs reaching hundreds of thousands of visitors would not be possible without their support.

### **Commissions**

- The State Park and Recreation Commission has specific authorities and responsibilities defined in California law, including:
  - Approval of general plans for units of the State Park System
  - Classifying units of the System
  - Approval of concession agreements that: exceed \$500,000; are for more than 20 years; or that include the sale of alcoholic beverages..
  - Establishing general policies for the guidance of the Director of State Parks in the administration, protection and development of the System
  - Recommending to the Director a comprehensive recreation policy for the state
  - The Commission's nine members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.
- The California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission is separate from the Park and Recreation Commission, yet has similar responsibilities specifically for OHV park units:
  - Approve funding for minor capital outlay projects
  - Approve funding for OHV grants
  - General policy direction for the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
  - Act as a forum for public input
  - The Commission's seven members are appointed: three by the Governor, two by the Senate Rules Committee and two by the Speaker of the Assembly.



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- The State Historical Resources Commission is a nine-member state review board appointed by the Governor, with responsibilities for the identification, registration and preservation of California's cultural heritage. California State Parks' Office of Historic Preservation serves as staff to the Historical Resources Commission.
  - The mission of the Commission and California State Parks' Office of Historic Preservation, in partnership with the people of California, is to preserve and enhance California's irreplaceable historic heritage as a matter or public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, recreational, aesthetic, economic, social and environmental benefits will be maintained and enrich the lives of present and future generations.
- The Commission reviews applications for listing historic and archaeological resources on the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historic Resources, and the California Historical Landmarks and California Points of Historical Interest registration programs.